

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** Average

**IMPROVEMENT RATING:** Average

Number of districts with students like ours: 22.

The absolute ratings for those districts ranged from average to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to average.

#### Definitions of District Rating Terms

**Excellent-** District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

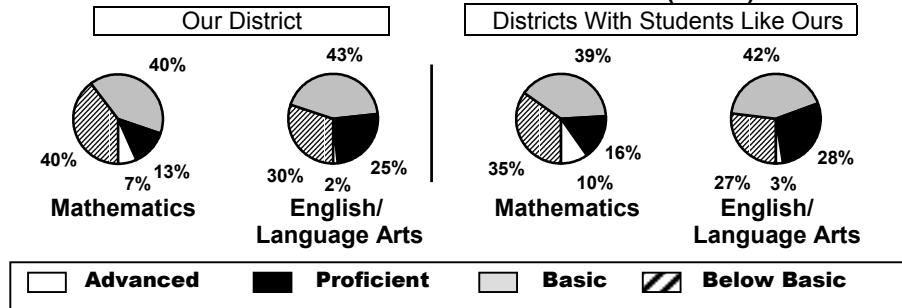
**Good-** District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average-** District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average-** District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory-** District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

### PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



#### DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- **Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- **Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- **Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- **Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

#### PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Percent of Seniors Passing the Exit Exam	Percent of Seniors Qualifying for LIFE Scholarships	Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above on the PACT	
			ELA	Math
<b>All Students</b>	93.0%	13.7%	69.9%	60.3%
Students with disabilities other than Speech	66.7%	0.0%	43.6%	28.7%
Students without disabilities	95.1%	14.5%	74.2%	65.3%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	90.8%	10.1%	65.9%	58.8%
Female	95.0%	17.5%	74.4%	62%
<b>Ethnic Group</b>				
African-American	88.8%	0.0%	56.7%	49%
Hispanic	100.0%	0.0%	62.5%	46.9%
White	95.0%	22.1%	78.1%	67.4%
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Lunch Status</b>				
Free/ Reduced-Price Lunch	87.0%	0.0%	60.2%	51%
Pay for Lunch	95.2%	17.8%	79.6%	69.5%

#### TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	1999	2000	2001
Our district			
Passed all 3 subtests	57.6%	72.5%	74.1%
Passed 2 subtests	15.5%	13.4%	14.8%
Passed 1 subtest	17.6%	10.5%	6.9%
Passed no subtest	9.4%	3.6%	4.1%
Districts with students like ours			
Passed all 3 subtests	65.1%	68.5%	70.8%
Passed 2 subtests	18.5%	17.0%	16.5%
Passed 1 subtest	9.9%	9.4%	8.1%
Passed no subtest	6.5%	5.1%	4.5%

#### LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions

	Eligible	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	13.7%	39.6%	17.0%
Districts Like Ours	20.2%	53.6%	21.3%

**College Admissions Tests:** Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
District	480	477	459	483	939	960	17.9	18.2	18.2	18.9	19.2	19.2	18.7	19.1	18.6	19.0
State	484	486	482	488	966	974	18.7	18.8	19.2	19.3	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.3
Nation	505	506	514	514	1019	1020	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	21.4	21.3	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0

*These tests were administered to samples of students:*

**Terra Nova Test:** A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percent scoring in upper half

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

**National Assessment of Education Progress :** A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

#### Percents of Students

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

## DISTRICT PROFILE

### INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Dollars per student	\$6,005	N/A	\$6,303	\$6,464
• Prime instructional time	90.3%	Down from 90.4%	89.7%	89.4%
• Student-teacher ratio	21.1 to 1	N/A	21.1 to 1	20.2 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.7%	N/A	0.4%	0.6%
<b>STUDENTS (n=5,880)</b>				
• Advanced placement/ int'l baccalaureate program exam success ratio	57.7%	N/A	47.7%	43.8%
• Attendance Rate	95.7%	Up from 95.4%	95.8%	95.7%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	8.9%	N/A	4.9%	5.8%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	5.7%	N/A	4.4%	4.5%
• Retention rate	9.8%	Up from 5.8%	5.8%	6.0%
<b>TEACHERS (n=415)</b>				
• Professional development days per teacher	6.5 Days	Down from 6.9	7.4 Days	7.8 Days
• Attendance rate	95.6%	Down from 96%	95.3%	95.2%
• Advanced Degrees	41.4%	Down from 42.7%	46.8%	44.4%
• Continuing contracts	76.1%	Down from 81.9%	81.9%	81.4%
• Out-of-field permits	3.6%	Up from 0%	2.1%	2.2%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	86.2%	Down from 90.4%	90.6%	89.5%
• Average salary	\$36,997	Up 5.8%	\$38,193	\$37,143

## DISTRICT FACTS

<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Annual dropout rate	1.5%	Down from 3%	3%	2.9%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	52.6%	N/A	51%	50.9%
• Superintendent's years in the district	7	N/A	4.8	3.5
• Parent conferences	99.7%	N/A	85.6%	81.0%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	9	No change	15	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	0	N/A	0	0
• Portable classrooms	26.4%	N/A	6.5%	6.5%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	99.1%	Up from 98.6%	97.8%	97.5%
• Average administrative salary	\$65,449	Up 5.5%	\$65,301	\$64,098
<b>STUDENTS</b>				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Percent of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Suspensions and expulsions	173	N/A	166	100
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	9.9%	Down from 11%	14.4%	10.5%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	11.3%	Up from 9.9%	10.5%	10.5%

Laurens 55 School District  
1029 W. Main Street  
Laurens, SC 29360

**Grades** K-12

**Enrollment:** 5,880 Students

**Superintendent** Edgar C. Taylor 864-984-3568

**Board Chair** Leni N. Patterson 864-682-2633

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual District Report Card	2001
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### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

With a new school in Waterloo and upgrades in nearly every facility in the district, Laurens County School District 55 will look dramatically different this year. However, our dedication to academic excellence and innovation will continue to be the foundation of our success.

Studies have shown that test scores and overall performance drop during the first year after a student changes schools. As you know, the recent redrawing of district lines resulted in continuity for our students. E.B. Morse Elementary, Laurens Elementary, Ford Elementary, Hickory Tavern Elementary, and Waterloo Elementary are all kindergarten through fifth grade. Laurens Middle, Hickory Tavern Middle, and Sanders Middle are all sixth through eighth grade. Pleasant View Primary (K-3) and Gray Court-Owings (4-8) are unchanged, and our high school, Laurens District 55 High School, continues to serve all grade 9-12 students. The celebrated addition of Waterloo Elementary School - the district's first new facility since 1972 - reduced bus rides of two hours or more for many students. The school has become a focal point for local residents of all ages. In Hickory Tavern, the distinction between the elementary and middle school grades is allowing for more attention to individual student needs.

We believe that our students will perform at a higher level in these new classrooms and improved learning environments. During the past two years we have spent countless hours assessing the performance of each student and adjusting student assignments to match their needs. Within the limitations of the funding available we believe that we are providing an excellent opportunity for each student to excel.

We have many dedicated staff members who work loyally each day to assure success for our children. I hope that the information included in this document helps you to understand that level of dedication. We hope to continue working with you and other members of the community to create the best possible environment for our youth and a quality of life unsurpassed anywhere.

Edgar C. Taylor, Superintendent

### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at

[www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com)